

Dear Mr. President,

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It was slightly over a year ago that I last spoke at this forum. Since that time, much efforts have been taken to improve the international situation. However, we did not manage to achieve any drastic positive change. Moreover, we have witnessed further increase of global conflict potential, which distracts us from the solution of urgent problems related to the need to enhance international stability and to establish an environment conducive to consistent steps in the field of disarmament and nonproliferation.

Today, we have to acknowledge our inability to overcome a stalemate in the field of multilateral disarmament. A stalemate situation in the Conference's activities that has continued for over ten years clearly reflects an unfavorable state of affairs in the field of international security. Efforts taken by groups of "like-minded" states are capable of partially solving disarmament problems; however, in a long-term perspective, such efforts will face serious restraints, which, in fact, could result in an erosion of the existing mechanisms, including this Conference. Of course, additional problems emerge due to the current global financial and economic crisis, which constrict the resource base for disarmament and conversion programs.

At the same time, it is quite obvious that under globalization the crisis cannot be overcome through military preparations or war as happened in 1930-s. Regretfully, the Cold War has "institutionalized" militarization in the field of international relations. We need to get rid of this holdover.

Russia is aware of its special responsibility as a nuclear state and permanent member of the UN Security Council for nuclear disarmament and strengthening of the WMD non-proliferation regime. My country has fully met its obligations under the START 1. Implementation of the Moscow Treaty (SORT) is well underway. It's now time to take new steps in this area aimed at making our world more secure.

We welcome the statements made by the new US Administration in favor of multilateral approaches to the maintenance of international security and disarmament. We are prepared, as was suggested by our American partners, to "reset" our relations. Conclusion of a new legally binding Russian-American treaty on strategic offensive arms could become a priority step in that direction.

Let me now read out the statement by Dmitry A. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation, on this issue.

**"On December 5 this year, the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (START 1) expires. The importance of this instrument for ensuring international peace and stability can hardly be overestimated. It played a historic role in ensuring strategic stability and security as well as reducing strategic offensive arms arsenals. Its implementation has made the world safer.**

**Today, we are facing a pressing need to move further along the road of nuclear disarmament. In accordance with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Russia is fully committed to reaching the goal of a world free from these most deadly weapon.**

**As far back as in 2005 we invited the United States to conclude a new agreement to succeed START 1. It could be based on all the best elements of the Treaty which has been effectively operating, while reflecting present-day strategic realities.**

**In arriving at that decision, we have taken into consideration, among other things, the fact that the limits established by START 1 were met as far back as in 2001. At present, the numbers of strategic delivery vehicles and their warheads are considerably lower. Thus, START 1 is far from limiting Russia and the United States in the missile and nuclear sphere it, in fact, permits to increase the arsenals of strategic offensive arms.**

Our approach to such an agreement is as follows. A future agreement should be legally binding. It is of no less importance that the instrument should be forward-looking and should limit not only warheads, but also strategic delivery vehicles, i.e. intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine launched ballistic missiles and heavy bombers.

We also deem it necessary to exclude possible deployment of strategic offensive arms outside national territories.

I wish to emphasize that Russia is open to dialogue and is prepared for negotiations with the new US Administration. I fully share the commitment of the US President Barack H. Obama to the noble goal of saving the world from the nuclear threat and see here a fertile ground for a joint work.

I believe that constructive interaction in this field will contribute to general improvement of the Russian-US relations.

**Dmitry A. Medvedev."**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today we witness a growing number of international initiatives on nuclear disarmament such as Hoover Initiative, Global Zero Initiative, Evans-Kawaguchi Commission, Luxemburg Forum, as well as the plan put forward by Mr. Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of Great Britain. Russia appreciates the focus of these initiatives on solving global security issues on a multilateral basis and is willing to positively contribute to their consideration.

However, progress towards "global zero" can only be achieved through strengthened strategic stability and strict adherence to the principle of equal security for all. In its turn this suggests the need to carry out a set of measures required for a sustainable and consistent disarmament process. Among those measures are:

- further advancement of nuclear disarmament by all nuclear-weapon States, with their "gradual" engagement in efforts already being undertaken by Russia and U.S.;

- to prevent weaponization of outer space;

- to prevent operational deployment of strategic offensive weapons equipped with conventional warheads, i.e. the building of the so-called "compensatory" potential;

- to ensure that States do not possess a "nuclear upload potential";

- to prevent attempts aimed at using NPT membership to implement military nuclear programs;

- to ensure verifiable cessation of conventional capabilities' development coupled with efforts to resolve other international issues, including settlement of regional conflicts.

I would like to draw particular attention to the relationship between offensive and defensive weapons. Real progress in nuclear disarmament cannot be achieved in a situation when unilateral efforts to develop strategic ABM systems undermine this relationship. This is fraught with erosion of strategic stability and disbalancing of the system of checks and balances that ensures global parity.

Acting in the spirit of strategic openness, we propose a constructive alternative to unilateral plans in this crucial area, i.e. to unite efforts of all States interested in counteracting potential missile threats. Our package proposal with regard to developing cooperation remains on the negotiation table. We will develop and elaborate it. We are ready for a joint work based on equitable partnership.

Ensuring an effective and sustainable implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is of pivotal importance for global security, and enhancement of its universality remains a priority. We deem it necessary to prepare for the forthcoming NPT Review Conference in 2010 agreed recommendations that would provide continued efficiency of the Treaty as a crucially

important instrument to prevent nuclear proliferation. We need to achieve unconditional fulfillment by its Parties of their obligations embodied in the indivisibility of three fundamental pillars – non-proliferation, peaceful uses of atomic energy and disarmament. The Third session of the Preparatory Committee of the Review Conference provides a great opportunity to reach an agreement on possible ways to intensify negotiations in all those areas.

Strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear arms limitation regime is inextricably linked to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT). Russia ratified the Treaty in 2000. We have consistently advocated its early entry into force. The moratorium on nuclear tests, with all its importance, cannot serve as a substitute for legal obligations. Therefore we call upon all States whose accession is necessary for the Treaty's entry into force, to sign and ratify it as soon as possible. We have noted, naturally, some positive signals from Washington regarding possible changes in the US position on CTBT and expect that those signals are embodied in specific decisions of President Obama's Administration.

Nuclear-weapon-free zones contribute to strengthening nuclear non-proliferation regime, achieving peace and security regionally and globally. We welcome the completion of the ratification process by all Parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, which resulted in its entry into force.

The task to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime in the Middle East remains urgent. We consistently advocate this region to become a nuclear-weapon-free zone and, eventually, a zone free from all other types of weapons of mass destruction. In 1995 and 2000, the NPT Parties already took decisions on the Middle East. Mutually acceptable solutions for their implementation need to be sought within the forthcoming preparatory activities for the NPT Review Conference. We stand ready for a joint work to fulfill that task as well.

IAEA verification activities need to be made more effective. The Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement, ratified by Russia in 2007, is an efficient tool

of enhancing IAEA capacities in this field. We call on all countries to become parties to it. Eventually, the Additional Protocol is to become a universally accepted standard to verify the compliance of States with their NPT non-proliferation obligations and a new major standard in the field of nuclear exports.

Growing interest in peaceful nuclear energy is a trend of current economic development. Energy security and climate are necessarily linked to peaceful nuclear applications, which should be used more widely in full accordance with the NPT States parties' inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This opens up new opportunities for international cooperation, primarily to ensure stable and secure supplies of nuclear fuel for countries developing their nuclear energy sector, subject to due compliance with the requirements of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. We note the increasing importance of multilateral approaches that could serve as an economically sound and feasible alternative to the development of all elements of the nuclear fuel cycle nationally.

In recent years we have witnessed quite a few interesting initiatives in this field as well. Russia suggested that joint work should be carried out to develop global nuclear energy infrastructure through the establishment of multilateral centers for the provision of nuclear fuel cycle services. The International Uranium Enrichment Center has been already established in partnership with Kazakhstan at the Angarsk enrichment plant. We welcome the decision of Armenia and Ukraine to join this Center, as well as the interest in joining it shown by some other countries. The Angarsk Center plans to create a buffer stock of low-enriched uranium under the IAEA supervision to ensure guaranteed supplies of fuel in case of a market failure.

Our ability to adequately and timely respond to the threat of nuclear terrorism is a prerequisite for ensuring security of every State and of the entire world community. The Russian-American Global Initiative to Combat Acts of Nuclear Terrorism put forward in 2006 is a major contribution to this cause. It is already

being implemented and is growing in scale. 75 States have joined it to date. We are convinced that it will enjoy even broader support in the future. This is a good example of a possible cooperation modality in the modern world to find responses to new challenges and threats.

We support revitalization of multilateral diplomacy, primarily within the UN and the Conference on Disarmament. We note a considerable contribution of the Conference to the strengthening of international security. We express our gratitude to all delegations and to Mr. Sergei Ordzhonikidze, Secretary-General of the Conference, for their efforts to enhance relevance of this forum, including their persistent efforts to build consensus with regard to its programme of work.

Preventing weaponization of outer space is of particular importance among disarmament issues. When Russia and China introduced a draft international Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (PPWT) at this Conference last February, they felt that it was easier to prevent weaponization of outer space than to get rid of new stockpiles of weapons afterwards. Prevention of an arms race in outer space will also contribute to making the strategic situation predictable and preserving integrity of orbital assets. This should serve the interests of all States using outer space for peaceful purposes.

Russia and China will soon introduce a document summing up the outcome of the Conference debate and outlining our response to the comments received regarding the draft PPWT. We hope that it will serve as useful input to future negotiations.

A year ago at this forum Russia also introduced draft basic elements of an international legal agreement on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range (ground-launched) missiles. We reiterate our call for a detailed discussion of this initiative that has gained a great deal of support. Our idea is echoed by the EU-backed proposals of French President Nicolas Sarkozy to start negotiations on banning intermediate-range and shorter-range ground-to-ground missiles. We are prepared for a constructive dialogue with both the EU and all other partners on

possible ways of dealing with these issues with a view to establishing a universal regime for banning these types of missiles.

We are also prepared to start negotiation on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons purposes (FMCT), which would become an important milestone in the processes of nuclear disarmament and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

In conclusion, I would like to state the following. In our view, the efforts made to harmonize the priority items on the Conference agenda in order to resume its substantive work are inextricably linked with general search for ways to overcome the present-day crisis phenomena: be it in financial and economic, military and political, environmental or other areas. We can only solve the problems we are facing now through joint action, by restoring trust in global politics and making collective efforts meeting the interests of all States and the world community as a whole.

Russia is open to a constructive dialogue and stands ready to work jointly with its partners. The right moment has come today, for the first time after the end of the Cold War, for making real progress in resuming the global disarmament process on a broad agenda. I am convinced that we should not miss this opportunity.